

**Seed Certification – Foundation Seed & Plant Materials  
Board Meeting  
February 12, 2013  
Oregon State University, LaSells Stewart Center**

Attending: Daniel Arp\*, Larry Curtis\*, Mike Flowers\*, Vidyasagar Sathuvalli, Cynthia Ocamb\*, Reed Barker\*, Andrew Hulting, Lee von Borstel\*, Barry Schrumphf\*, Dan Walters\*, Warren Dole\*, Russ Karow, Dennis Lundeen, Adriel Gray, Terry Burr, Kim Hummer\*, Jeff McMorren, Rachel Hankins, Jodi Keeling, Julie Hendrix, Iraj Motazedian, Sandy Smith, Carrie Lewis, Jerry Weiland, Nancy Osterbauer, John Zielinski, Sabry Elias, Anchalee Prasertsak.

\* Voting members.

Dan opened with introductions.

Approve the agenda: Kim Hummer moved, second Dan Walters. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approve the minutes from 2012: Dan Walters moved, second Mike Flowers.

Nancy Osterbauer pointed out two spelling errors.

1. PCR should be PCN.
2. Rathyibacter was spelled incorrectly.

All in favor with corrections.

OSU College of Ag Report – Dean Arp

Student numbers are around 26,000 students, a record. The College of Ag Sciences has the largest percentage increase, going from about 1400 undergraduates five years ago to over 2000 now. Ag student numbers appear to be up across the nation.

Professors have brought in over \$50M in grants and contracts. They've been using state dollars to leverage federal money. Private donations are also up, from about \$1M per year to \$8.5M to \$10M per year. Private donations provide funding for endowments, student scholarships, and matches for governmental programs.

The head of the College of Horticulture, Anita Azarenko, was named Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Bill Braunworth was appointed interim department head. An open search for a replacement is underway, and the deadline for applications was last week. The committee is now working on narrowing the field of applicants.

No changes are expected in the budgets for the remainder of the fiscal year. No additional cuts are anticipated.

The Legislature is currently working on the next biennium's budget. The Governor recommended a flat budget for the 'statewides' – ag experiment stations, forest research labs, and the extension services – which is much better than the previous biennium's recommendation for a \$20M cut to the statewides. In reality, a flat budget translates to about a 7% shortfall to maintain current levels.

The Governor recommended a 7% increase for the Oregon University System (OUS), trying to reverse previous disinvestment in higher education. OSU is working to reinforce to legislators and other stakeholders that it is an integral part of the OUS, and would like to receive the same 7% recommended increase as OUS.

Questions:

Have you seen a decline in private donations? OSU has actually seen an increase in private donations, it appears that there are a couple of reasons for this.

1. Agriculture has been a bright spot in economic recovery.
2. OSU has an outstanding foundation team in the ongoing capital campaign, which is generating a lot of enthusiasm for the university.
3. The OSU Foundation is now willing to accept managed properties. It is now easier for ag land to be donated to the university, with the understanding that it will continue to be farmed for a period of time.

Do you see industry groups stepping up to provide funding as well? They are helping to maintain the stations.

#### OSU Extension Report – Russ Karow

With Bill Braunworth's move to interim head of the Horticulture Department, Mike Borman, Animal and Rangeland Resources, and Russ will be assisting with the position of Ag Extension Program Leader in the College of Ag.

They are working on staffing, in light of expected budgetary changes. Since 2002 to present, Extension has lost 30 positions. In the short term, the strategy is to use back-up plans as positions become vacant. Back-up plans include part-time retiree appointments, employees funded by third parties, fill-in employees from like positions across the state, or leaving the positions vacant.

Three Eastern Oregon livestock people have left. The priority is to fill a vacancy in Malheur County first because it has the highest livestock numbers.

Two of three vegetable people in the Willamette Valley are leaving. At least one needs to be replaced.

They are working creatively to fill openings/needs across the state.

They are reworking the statewide Extension staffing plan. The thinking is that if a position in the statewide staffing plan becomes vacant, it will be reviewed for priority to be refilled. Staffing levels are currently so low that most positions are considered high priority for refilling.

More regional positions, with broader responsibilities, are being created. Positions will cover larger geographical areas, based more on applicability than geography.

Two new PhD's have been hired in the field recently. The expectation is that more research will result.

Unless new sources of income materialize, the short-term strategy is for positions to continue to hybridize with higher expectations and increased complexity in the Extension service.

Local Extension agents are aging, and there is a concern that there will be a mass retirement in the next five years. Replacing those years of knowledge and experience is a major concern.

## OSU Crop and Soil Science Report – Russ Karow

Crop and Soil Science is facing issues similar to those being faced in Extension – budgeting, staffing, etc.

Sagar Sathuvalli has been hired as the new potato breeder, a critical position in Hermiston. He will be involved in traditional variety development and enhancing variety development efforts through breeding and genetics activities. He comes from the hazelnut program on campus. He began work December 1, 2012.

Paul Marquardt was hired in the South Willamette Valley, and he starts March 1, 2013.

Malheur County passed a tax district to fund new positions. One of those is expected to be a second cropping systems position. The top candidate declined the employment offer, so it has been reopened.

Traditionally, tax districts have been primarily used to fund Extension and assistant-type positions. The Malheur County tax district is the first in the state to be used to fund faculty-level positions, and it may serve as the template for other counties to follow as they develop their own tax districts.

## OSU Horticulture Department Report – no one there to present

Rob Golembiewski left in March, and Alec Kowalewski was hired to replace him just over a month ago. Grass commissions, the Oregon Seed Association, and others came together to fund an endowment for the position.

Alec was at the Beijing Olympics, working with portable turf squares that were used to create fields for the competition.

## Grass and Legume Advisory Committee Recommendations – Sandy Smith

Page 5 of the Grass & Legume tab in the notebooks outlines the recommendations.

### *Item 1*

The first item came about as a recommendation from the Clover Commission. The recommendation is to add the following footnotes to all clover standards:

1. If small broomrape is found in a certification field inspection, and OSU Seed Lab Orobanche exam is required. Two samples are to be collected in separate containers, one for the Orobanche exam, the other for standard purity and viability testing; and
2. List small broomrape as a prohibited weed in the seed standards.

### Background / Discussion:

Small broomrape cycles over 10-15 years, depending on conditions, and it is a problem for export. It is listed as federally restricted on imports, but there is no domestic regulation for it. It is difficult to find in inspections.

The interest in maintaining high standards for production is to protect cover crops around the world.

If small broomrape is found in a test, can the lot be recleaned? Yes, it is allowed by law at this time.

Is testing for small broomrape optional, or is it required for each lot? If it is found in the field inspection, every lot from that field must be tested. If it is not found in the field inspection, lots do not need to be tested.

How often is small broomrape found in field inspections? Outbreaks are very infrequent and hard to distinguish. It is usually found in the canopy, and it looks similar to clover heads.

What is the rationale for two samples? The rationale behind two samples is to keep the testing completely separate, and increase the chances of finding the small broomrape. There is also a PCR test available that would require a separate sample.

Dan Walters moved to accept the recommendation. Lee von Borstel seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

### *Item 2*

The second item is to help harmonize Orchardgrass testing with proposed AOSA standards and existing ISTA standards. The recommendation is as follows:

Amend the Orchardgrass Seed Standards for all certification classes, changing the pure seed minimum from 90% to 92% and the inert matter maximum from 10% to 8%, contingent upon AOSA acceptance of a rule proposal to eliminate the Orchardgrass factoring procedure.

#### Background / Discussion:

A similar proposal went before the OSA last year, and it failed. Last fall, stakeholders met and created this compromise proposal.

Reed Barker moved to accept the recommendation. Kim Hummer seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

### *Item 3*

The third item is in response to a mathematical conundrum in the testing process. The recommendation reads as follows:

Amend the Perennial Ryegrass Seed Standards for the Foundation class, changing the maximum allowance of Annual Ryegrass from 0.10% to 0.32% and total other crops from 0.20% to 0.42%.

#### Background / Discussion

Current standards are that 0.10% is in effect zero-tolerance. One Annual Ryegrass Seed observed during the purity exam would disqualify that lot at the Foundation level. It has been inferred that, since the standard is not set at zero, some level of tolerance was anticipated.

The standard also needed to be amended in the AOSCA standards, and they did that at their last meeting in July. This recommendation will align Oregon seed standards with AOSCA.

What about Annual Ryegrass samples? AOSCA standards were amended to make the change in both Perennial Ryegrass and Annual Ryegrass. Only the change in Perennial Ryegrass was brought to the Grass & Legume Committee, but it could be done for both crops.

Breeders would prefer no Annual Ryegrass in seedstock, so the previous low standard would allow a zero-tolerance standard that's proven. How does this recommendation assist that? If that's truly the case, the standard should be changed to 0.00% instead of increasing it to

0.32%. It may be that the tolerance was added to balance the inconsistencies of the fluorescence test when it was added to the Federal Seed Act back in the 1950's.

The proposal was taken to the Grass & Legume Committee by OSU Seed Certification (Certification). After they have gone through the seedstock inspection program and the roguing associated with that, they feel confident in the quality of seed the field will produce. A fluorescing seed can show up in testing, as a result of weaknesses inherent in the test, disallowing a lot. There is a zero-tolerance policy in field inspections. The proposal is to allow for weaknesses in the test.

Lee von Borstel moved to accept the recommendation. Reed Barker seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### *Item 4*

This recommendation is an attempt to adjust the standard to better reflect the mathematical conversion being used. It also splits the standards into closely related groups. The recommendation reads as follows:

Amend the maximum allowance of Group A weed seed in the Registered and Certified classes for all fine fescues from 15 per pound, and publish the fine fescue standards according to closely related groups per their isolation requirements.<sup>1</sup> The current maximum allowance for the Group A weed seed was based on using 450 grams per pound as the sample weight conversion value. This conversion value has since been revised to 453.6 grams per pound and the maximum allowance needs to be updated accordingly. In addition, it is recommended to split the current Fine Fescue Standards into ones for Strong Creeping Red fescue; Chewings and Slender Creeping Red fescue; Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho Fescue; and Annual fescue if adopted by the Board. Besides a change to the standards title, the only revision from the Fine Fescue Standards will be the maximum allowance of Group A weed seed per the sample weight conversion.

#### Background / Discussion:

The original standard for Group A weeds was based upon the assumption that there was one working weight for all fine fescues, but there are at least two working weights. That made a real difference in the calculations of seeds per pound.

This is not a relaxation of the standard, but making the value appropriate for the conversion.

Reed Barker moved to accept the recommendation. Dan Walters seconded. Reed requested that scientific names be consistently used throughout the documentation. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### *Item 5*

The Turf & Legume Committee made this recommendation to allow for consistency amongst all seed standards. The recommendation reads as follows:

Review all of the published OSCS seed standards and adjust crop and weed allowances as needed per use of the revised weight conversion value (453.6 grams per pound rather than 450 grams per pound).

#### Background / Discussion:

This would result in changes in what is published now.

Reed Barker moved to accept the recommendation. Dan Walters seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### Cereal Advisory Committee Recommendations – Lee von Borstel

Statement on Certification and seed wheat in north central Oregon. In 2012, 64% of the seed wheat Mid-Columbia Producers sold was Clearfield, certification-required seed wheat. In 2013, that number rose to 72%. An additional 10% of its seed sales were private varieties that were certification-required, taking the total to 82%. That number continues to climb every year.

Public and private breeders are working to catch up with corn and soybean breeders in developing new traits and varieties. Monsanto and Sygenta are spending tens of millions of dollars trying to develop new traits. Certification has an excellent opportunity to capitalize on these developments.

#### *Item 1*

Replace current text in Special Requirements, Section D – Triticale Isolation (page 43, OSCS Handbook) with the following:

D. Isolation (Triticale) – Foundation class must be isolate 90 feet from other varieties of triticale, Registered and Certified, 10 feet. Fields of the same variety but different generations must be isolated by a mechanical break. Triticale must be isolated 10 feet from all other small grains.

#### Background / Discussion:

There had been distances up to hundreds of feet. They compared standards with neighboring states and spoke with breeders to come to this recommendation.

Warren Dole moved to accept the recommendation. Kim Hummer seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### *Item 2*

Replace current text in Special Requirements, Section G (page 43, OSCS Handbook) with the following:

G. Transfer of seed may be documented using one of several shipping certificates available at the OCS website:

(1) Field Transfer Certificate, to move in-the-dirt seed from farm storage to an out-of-state warehouse.

(2) Transfer of Presample Seed Certificate, to move seed (usually for planting), prior to availability of an OSU Seed Lab test number.

(3) Transfer of Seed Pending Final Certification, to move seed following availability of the test number and prior to completion of testing.

(4) Certificate of Final Certification, to move seed following completion of testing and setting eligibility for tagging. Seed is not officially and finally certified until it has been tagged, or documented by a Certificate of Final Certification.

#### Background / Discussion

This is an expansion of the current document for moving seed in bulk. All four options are expected to be used extensively through the seed testing timeline.

Kim Hummer moved to accept the recommendation. Warren Dole seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

### *Item 3*

Recommendations are made to clean up the Small Grains Certification Standards in the OSCS Handbook. (see attached)

- a. Clarify that seed sent to the lab is the "Submitted Sample."
- b. Re: Footnote 1.
  - Clarify that seed used for testing is the "working weight."
  - Improve detection of contaminating seeds by increasing the working weight from 75 and 100 grams to 500 grams, and
  - Clarify that testing of all factors listed in the table is based on 500 grams (Fdn class exceptions).
  - Add the word "off-type" for clarification.
  - Clarify testing requirements for seed moving into Oregon from other states.
- c. Apply Footnote 3 to the Pure seed factor, rather than the Off-type factor.
- d. Re: Footnotes 4 and 5,
  - Remove Vetch from the Other Cereal factor, and
  - Place Vetch in Other Crop.
- e. Re: Footnote 7, prohibits immature seeds of the additional weeds listed in the footnote.

### Background / Discussion

These items are housekeeping issues to clarify the standards.

Reed Barker moved to accept the recommendation. Warren Dole seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Reed Barker asked Lee if growers are ready and willing to pay additional costs associated with the trait certification Lee talked about in his earlier statement. Growers are already paying a \$2.25/bu royalty to OSU and BASF on Clearfield 101. They are doing it willingly, recognizing the value being added.

Reed pointed out that trait certification is generally very expensive. Lee reiterated that growers will pay the royalty as long as they recognize the value being added.

Reed is concerned about additional testing costs. The wheat industry is already conditioned for this, as opposed to the grass seed industry. Wheat yields have more than doubled in recent history, so they are willing to pay more for the advanced traits that translate to improved production. Grass seed yields and prices have not increased at that rate.

### Mint Advisory Committee Recommendations – Terry Burr

#### *Item 1*

Add the following as Paragraph Two of Section X. General Land Requirements, A:

For the 2013 and 2014 crop years, there is a Crop History exception for fields that have been properly tarped—fumigated immediately prior to planting with tissue—cultured strawberry plants, and then followed directly with a certified class of mint rootstock. This exception only applies to mint rootstock certified under Program B, the Field Class Program (section XIV in these standards).

The same is to be added as Paragraph Two of Section XIV. Specific Requirements for Program B: Field Class Program, B. Land Requirements, 1. Farm History.

#### Background / Discussion

This was written with a specific grower in mind, who had successfully raised virus-free strawberries and wished to follow them with mint. Fields qualifying for certification under this allowance will be closely monitored to verify that no virus appears.

Dan Walters moved to accept the recommendation. Warren Dole seconded.

Kim Hummer asked if specific fumigants are required. Terry Burr replied that chloropicrin and methyl bromide are going to be banned in the near future, and when that happens, this standard will need to be revisited.

Kim observed that since recent changes were made in fumigants in California, several new diseases have appeared in strawberries. She is unsure if that will translate to *Verticillium* in mint in Oregon, but is concerned it could happen.

Cynthia Ocamb indicated that this grower is a good opportunity to see how well the fumigation process works because they have a long rotation period that includes six to eight years of pasture fallow, followed by strawberries and then mint.

All in favor. Motion passed.

#### *Item 2*

The list of counties known to have infestations of *Verticillium* wilt has not been updated since January 1992. Bob Henderson, Dennis Lundeen, and Terry Burr went through the OSCS Handbook to clarify the standards, and reformat for readability. Most of these changes are housekeeping in nature.

Section XII. Specific Requirements for Program A: Strict Land Requirements Program, B. Land Requirements, 1. Farm History was revised to read:

The specific field site entered for certification must not have ever had a known infestation of *Verticillium dahliae*.

All subsequent paragraphs in Farm History that outline exceptions are deleted.

Section X. General Land Requirements, A. was revised to read:

Land to produce certified mint rootstock must not have produced crops known to be hosts for the *Verticillium dahliae* fungus during the previous three years. This includes the following: artichokes, blackberries, eggplant, hops, lettuce, maples, peppers, potatoes, raspberries, spinach, sunflowers, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Terry indicated that changes accepted at this meeting will be implemented in a reformatted handbook that will be presented to the Mint Advisory Committee membership for their approval.

The other changes outlined are a matter of housekeeping to improve readability.

Warren Dole moved to accept the recommendations. Dan Walters seconded.

Lee von Borstel expressed willingness to vote for the recommendations as long as they go back to the Mint Advisory Committee membership. Terry Burr explained that the changes in verbiage came from the Committee, and that the revisions to the format have yet to be approved by the Committee.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Question: When you say counties that are known to have Verticillium of mint, does that mean the presence of the pathogen regardless of mint, or specifically the disease in mint? It means the pathogen being present regardless of the presence of mint. If it is found in any crop, it counts. The list of counties came from the diagnostic clinic, so it only includes those counties in which Verticillium was diagnosed in any crop.

It was recommended that Verticillium of mint be replaced by Verticillium dahliae throughout the handbook for clarification purposes.

It was also recommended to revise XIII. Specific Requirements for Program A: Strict Land Requirements Program, 2. Isolation, paragraph 1 to read:

Certified peppermint rootstock may not be grown in any county of Oregon which is known to have Verticillium dahlia pathogenic to mints, except as specifically provided below:

Nancy Osterbauer moved to amend the original motion to include these two additional recommendations. Dan Walters seconded. All in favor. Amendment passed.

#### Potato Advisory Committee Recommendations – Jeff McMorran

There is one recommendation up for approval. It requires harvest inspections, and allows for such inspections to be waived at the discretion of the OSCS inspector.

It would revise Part II. Section E to insert item 3 as written below. The addition will require renumbering existing items in that section.

3. A harvest or bin inspection has been completed, unless this inspection is considered not possible by the Harvest Inspector due to circumstances out of the grower's control. Any lot not so inspected will have the sentence "*No harvest/bin inspection conducted on this lot*" included on the Final Report. Lots not inspected due to lack of cooperation by the grower, such as failure in communicating harvest dates to the Harvest Inspector, May not be eligible for certification.

Lee von Borstel moved to accept the recommendation. Warren Dole seconded.

Question: What is a harvest inspection? Answer: The inspector walks through the field, cutting open tubers, looking for nematodes and bacterial ring rot. It can be done both in the fields and in the bins.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Jeff reported that the Potato Advisory Committee considered a fee increase for nuclear G1 material because it requires intensive inspection (100% coverage), leading to high labor demand. The Committee determined that the standard does not require that level of intensity to meet the certification requirements. Less intensive inspections would also lead to less damage to vines. The original intent of 100% coverage began when G1 fields were 0.10 of an acre, and that is no longer the case. Fields can be in excess of 20 acres. The Committee asked Certification to develop a modified inspection standard that would not require such intensive inspections but still allow for detection of 0.25% or less of virus.

#### Seed Conditioner's Advisory Committee Recommendations – Warren Dole

No recommendations to present.

The Committee has asked Certification to look into randomly testing all warehouses using automatic samplers. It used to be that once a warehouse had been tested, it was not eligible for retesting for three years. The Committee is asking that every warehouse be eligible for testing every time.

Secondly, the Committee has determined that approximately 60% of warehouses do not use the online certification system. They are recommending that Certification and the seed lab look into implementing a \$20 surcharge for hand-written sample certificates to encourage use of the online system. It would also reduce the likelihood of transcription errors resulting from poor handwriting.

Question: Doesn't the Extension office send a representative to the plant to collect samples?

Answer: Yes, they do.

Question: Could the Extension office representative do the data entry for the sample on their computer? Answer: That may be an option. Not using the online system may just be a matter of lack of training or confidence on the part of warehouses. Extension office representatives or Certification personnel could provide training.

Discussion:

There has been a concern that the three-year rotation on random sampling makes it too easy for warehouses using automatic samplers wishing to 'cheat' the inspection program to do so. There has been discussion about how to structure the program so that both an automatic sample and hand-pulled sample will be submitted for testing. The automatic sample would be the official certification sample and the hand-pulled sample would be for check purposes.

The Committee is asking Certification and the seed lab to report back on these items at their next meeting.

The Committee is being asked to formulate and send out a letter recommending using the online certification system, so that it reflects that the Committee is recommending its use and Certification is not requiring it.

#### USDA-National Clonal Germplasm Repository – Kim Hummer

Barbara Reed asked to rotate off this committee, and Kim is replacing her from now on.

As a federally funded program, the Repository is potentially under sequestration. From what they've been told, sequestration would mean an 8% to 10% cut from where they are now.

They have received notice that furloughs may be impending. There may also be more facility closures system-wide, possibly up to ten more.

Work is continuing, regardless.

A new species of strawberry was discovered in the high peaks of the Cascades. It was named *Fragaria Cascadensis*. It is found at higher elevations, 3000 to 5000 feet, from Mt. Hood south to the Crater Lake region.

The genetics lab is working with the rosaceous community on obtaining an SERI grant called Rosebreed. Breeders are finding a number of parallel genes in peaches, apples, strawberries, and other rosaceous organisms. They are looking at genotypes and phenotypes, looking for genetic markers, and sequencing some of the diploids and applying those sequences to polyploids within the family.

There are some new approaches to multi-dimensional analysis of tissue culture media. They are using new softwares to look at how varying one particular compound can affect another, in the interest of producing optimal tissue culture media.

New pathogens and bugs are showing up as a result of climate change. Spotted wing drosophila has become a big problem in soft fruits. New viruses are being discovered in *Rubus* strawberries and other various crops.

The Repository is continuing to collect wild material and bring it in. They are approaching 12,000 accessions at this time.

Distribution is up. More people are requesting distribution each year. Kim attributes that to online availability.

Question: With all the budgetary cutbacks, will it become necessary to charge for distribution?

Answer: The challenge is that the germplasm system was founded on the idea of free exchange of plant genetic resources. That free exchange has led to improvements being made in production agriculture throughout the world, and enabling the introduction of production species where they had previously been unable to thrive. They can charge for shipping, but not for the germplasm itself.

With the increased possibility of pharmaceutical uses for germplasm, controversy has arisen in the germplasm community regarding who has the rights to what. There are now standard material transfer agreements going into place for the main world gene bank centers, and it's expected that those agreements will be implemented in US centers in time. That may be setting the stage for a fee-based system.

Question: Would that transfer to a royalty system for originators of germplasm? Answer: That might cause even more complications, given that country of origin can be nearly impossible to isolate for introduced species.

Question: To whom is the germplasm being distributed? Answer: The Repository distributes primarily to seed breeders, researchers, institutes, and secondarily to other researchers and hobbyists. Distribution depends a lot upon material availability and popularity.

Question: What does the MTA (material transfer agreement) do? Answer: The standard MTA primarily deals with how the material will be used, and contacting the original source of the material prior regarding the intended use. It is written generally enough that it can apply to any particular germplasm.

## Oregon Department of Agriculture – Nancy Osterbauer

Jim Cramer is at the Legislature, so Nancy is filling in.

ODA is still waiting for the USDA to sign off on the State/National Harmonization Plan memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The seed industry will be pushing back on the glyceria declinata testing that Australia is now requiring. Only declinata has ever been found, so why do we keep having to test for it? The industry is working on gathering data. It would be good for Certification to join with the industry to share data.

Declinata is the only glyceria that Australia doesn't care about, but it's the only one that's ever been found in ryegrass. Even, so Australia requires that if a glyceria is found in ryegrass, it must be tested to determine that it is declinata. No other glyceria has ever been found in ryegrass. ODA is working with the industry in Oregon to gather data to present to Australia to prove the extra testing is unnecessary.

## Oregon Seed Association – Dan Waters

The Oregon Seed Trade Association changed its name to Oregon Seed Association.

The state of the industry is improved over a couple of years ago, largely due to increases in prices. Costs have also increased, especially at the farm level.

Competition from commodities is making it harder to place acres. Wheat in particular is a huge competitor in the Willamette Valley. Acreage in public grass seed varieties is also increasing because growers have the freedom to take advantage of rising prices.

Question: Are seed companies thinking that this is a long-term trend? Answer: There doesn't appear to be a quick turnaround in sight. Ethanol corn acres are a driving factor behind the increase in wheat prices/acres, and that doesn't appear to be abating any time soon.

Question: Is the increase in corn used for ethanol driving more use of forage grasses? Answer: No. There is a domino effect because acres are being used for ethanol production instead of feeds.

## Foundation Seed Programs – Dan Curry, Mike Flowers

This is a small program run by OSU to care for certain grass, legume, and other species owned or curated by OSU.

Question: When did OSU form the alliance with Washington Crop Improvement (WCI) for its wheat part of the Foundation Program? Answer: 1990

Question: Was there anything in the agreement that allowed Oregon to be represented on the WCI board of directors? Answer: Oregon's acreage was so small that Oregon could not sustain its own program. There was an agreement between three experiment stations, but it didn't include anything about Oregon being represented on the board of directors.

Question: Since then, there have been times when 60% of the seed going through WCI was Oregon varieties. Was there ever anything about that put into writing? Answer: No. The agreements dictated how limited foundation seed allocations would be distributed, and things like that. That all changed with Year in Advance, and there has not been a need to restrict allocations unless there is a shortage of breeder seed. Other than the tri-state ag experiment station agreement, there wasn't anything.

Question: What ever happened with the issue of anguina in annual ryegrass? Answer: The USDA was going to issue an order that seed lots coming into the US be tested for anguina, and that is the last Nancy has heard. It appears to have fallen off the radar.

Question: What is the interest level in the species in the Foundation program? Answer: It varies. Foundation Fawn and Potomac orchardgrass are managed by OSU, and a Willamette Valley warehouse produces, cleans, warehouses, and sells them as a virtual donation to OSU. Fawn has the most activity. Potomac is fairly slack. A lot of the species are held onto as breeder seed and maintained.

They are working to get flax and soybeans out for production.

OSU Seed Services – Dan Curry, Dennis Lundeen, Adriel Garay

There are three pages for review, and they are included in the packet.

Certification acres were up approximately 13% last year – 232,000 acres. There were over 84,000 acres of new plantings.

The annual ryegrass early tagging completed its second year. It has gone from approximately 3000 acres to almost 20,000 acres. It appears to be a pretty successful program.

Willamette Valley samplers are using iPads or phones to document sample pick-up.

The Seed Lab is going to make an inflation-adjusted fee increase. Lab fees have not increased in five years. The increase is expected to be 10% to 11% or less. The changes will take effect July 1, 2013.

The Seed Lab did research regarding annual ryegrass germination. Two years ago, the Cultivar Purity Handbook said that annual ryegrass required a one-week cold test to break dormancy and then had to germinate for two weeks prior to reading the fluorescence and germination. The Lab's research showed that 70% to 80% of annual ryegrasses could be completed after one week of prechill followed by a week of germination. As a result, the Cultivar Purity Handbook was changed, and annual ryegrass is shipping faster.

Similar research is being performed on perennial ryegrass now, at the request of the Oregon Ryegrass Commission. The report is being completed this week, and it will be shared with northwest labs and seed organizations. The research has shown that more than 90% of perennial ryegrasses will reach maximum germination after one week of prechill followed by a week of germination. There are many steps yet to complete to implement the change. If everything goes according to plan, the change could be implemented as soon as July 1, 2013.

The ISTA ISF seed lot experiment is continuing and will end July 1, 2013. Fourteen warehouses have participated, and ten have been approved.

2013 looks to be a good year for Certification. There has been an increase in new seedlings.

The main areas of increase have been tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and annual ryegrass. OECD shipments increased, which appear to have contributed to the increases. International demand for certified annual ryegrass has spurred growth in those acres.

Cereals have also increased in the past few years. Developments in wheat breeding and proprietary traits appear to have fueled the increases.

Potatoes are probably the most consistent crop in the program. They always tend to run at 2500 acres per year, with eight to ten growers who produce every year.

Mint dropped to just three acres in 2012. Sierra Cascade, traditionally a strawberry plant, endive, and wheat producer, wants to add mint to their rotation. They indicated they may want to produce up to 300 acres, which would entail a fairly intensive inspection process.

Prevariety germplasm has increased significantly over the past few years, to over 400 acres. Field corn has also increased in the past few years.

Randy Knight retired last fall. There were a number of very good applicants. Two were hired. Andrew Altishin and Mary Beuthin were hired last week, and will be starting next week. Training will begin immediately.

iPads are being used more and more. Samples are being tracked from pick-up through the entire testing process. There is a seedling inspection program that is beginning to be used.

The Seed Lab is organizing a workshop focusing on grass seed. It is aimed at growers, cleaners, and dealers. There are 100 live plants of various species in the greenhouse that will be presented. One event will be held in English, and another will be held in Spanish, to encourage increased participation. If more than twenty people register for either event, the Seed Lab can arrange to repeat the event. The events will be held March 28-29 (English) and April 11-12 (Spanish).

#### Old / Other Business

None.

Reed Barker moved to adjourn. Dan Walters seconded.

Dan Curry thanked Terry Burr for arranging the meeting, Rachel Hankins for taking minutes, and Julie Hendrix and her staff for compiling the notebooks.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned.